

MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
September 6, 2022

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on September 6, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Jeff Baldus, Vice-Chair Mike Ankeny, John Mueller, Jerry Reinartz and Polly Glynn. Also in attendance were County Administrator Trish Harren, Finance Manager Loni Swenson, Facilities Manager Jason Murphy and Austin Daily Herald Editor Eric Johnson.

Finance Manager Loni Swenson and Senior Accountant Cindy Jensen reviewed the proposed budget and levy for 2023. Swenson noted that the initial levy increase was a 5.5% increase over 2022 or an increase of \$837,216. However, the finance committee met and discussed options to reduce the levy. Reductions were made in planned capital purchases and capital improvements. Additionally, it was discovered that the American Rescue Act Funds budgeted to be used to cover temporary staff had not been included in the budget. These changes reduced the levy to \$23,700,927 or 1.9% over 2022. 1.9% is equivalent to an increase of \$442,024 over the 2022 levy which was \$23,258,903. The key driving factor for the increase is a 7% increase to health insurance premium. The actual increase came in at 19%. However, the county had entered into an agreement in 2022 that the 2023 renewal rate could not be more than 7%.

County Administrator Harren noted it was no easy task to deliver a budget and levy with such a small increase. She expressed appreciation to department leaders who work diligently to manage costs and find innovative ways to deliver services cost effectively. Harren thanked the Finance Committee for their commitment of time to meet with departments as well as outside agencies and review each budget.

The work session concluded at 4:03 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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